

To the Queen.

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THE *Theological* 127  
Humble Supplication

Of Certain of Her Majesty's  
Faithful and Peaceable Subjects,  
CALLED  
*Protestant Dissenters,* k

In the Name of Themselves,  
and the Whole Body of the  
said *Protestant Dissenters* in  
England, in relation to the Bill  
to prevent SCHISM.

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The Second Edition.

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L O N D O N:

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TO THE  
QUEEN.

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*May it please Your Majesty,*

**W**E Your Majesty's Faithful  
and Peaceable Subjects, the  
*Protestant Dissenters in Eng-*  
*land*, being fully satisfy'd with the  
Establishment of that blessed *Toleration*  
which we now enjoy, granted to us as  
the Consequence of the late Happy *Re-*  
*volution*, and by the Just and Exact  
Compliance of the Nation with the De-  
claration Exhibited by the late Prince  
of *Orange*; which *Toleration*, after his  
Highness Landing in *England*, was Pre-  
sented to the Parliament, and by them  
turn'd into a Law, in the First Year of  
the Reign of the said Prince; when, by  
the General Consent of this Nation, he  
that was first our Glorious Deliverer,  
was afterwards declared our most Gra-  
cious Lord and Sovereign: And being  
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fully satisfy'd in our Minds, and quieted, with Respect to our frequent Apprehensions, concerning the Continuance and Preservation of the said *Toleration*, by your Majesty's Frequent and Gracious Assurances, as well from the Throne as upon other Occasions, of Granting us your Royal Protection, *upon our Peaceable and Dutiful Behaviour*, and of your being resolv'd to preserve the said *Toleration* INVIOABLE: And being, nevertheless, justly alarm'd with the Accounts we receive, from all Hands, of the Implacable Hatred which our Enemies profess, and of their Resolutions, if possible, to deprive us of the Benefit of the said *Toleration*, which, however, without your Majesty's Concurrence, we know, to our great Comfort, they have not Power to accomplish; do therefore, with all Humility, cast ourselves at your Majesty's Feet, and Flying to your Majesty's known Justice, and your tender Care for the *Peace and Prosperity, Ease and Quiet* of all your Peaceable Subjects, Present this, our humble Supplication, to your Majesty, most earnestly Beseeching your Majesty to take our Case into your Royal Consideration.

We, *First*, humbly Represent to your Majesty



Majesty, That however we have been Slander'd and Injuriously Charged as Persons of Irreligious Principles, *Schismatical*, and *Phanatical*; which Words of Reproach have been unjustly cast upon us by our Enemies, and often unanswerably Refuted; That yet we are a Body of your Majesty's Subjects, who claim the Titles of *Christians* and *Protestants*; and as such, humbly also hope for a Share in your Majesty's known Zeal for Propagating and Protecting the True *Christian* and Reform'd *Protestant Religion* in all your Dominions; and also a Share in that Profession which your Majesty so publicly made at your Accession to the Crown, of your sincere Concern for the Good of all your Subjects, without Distinction.

We humbly Represent to your Majesty, That we are also Christians of the same Orthodox Faith, and of the same Universal Catholick Church of God, of which your Majesty has always profess'd your self a Member, and of which the *Church of England*, Establish'd by the Laws of this Land, is declared to be a Branch; That we are the same with the said *Church of England* in all *Doctrinal Articles*, and in every Principle Essential to the Life of

a *Christian*, and Necessary to *Salvation*, having Sign'd and Subscrib'd to every one of the *Doctrinal Articles* of the Confession of Faith of the said *Church of England*; and to all the other Articles of the said Church, except TWO only, which TWO being allow'd and acknowledg'd, even by the Church herself, and by the Laws of this Land, not to be Essential to *Salvation*, or that the Declining the same amounts to any Breaking off from the Unity of Faith, by which *Christians* are Encorporated into Christ, the Head of the Universal *Catholick Church*, or from that Love, Unity, and Charity of *Christians*, by which, all the Members of that Great Body are United to one another: WE, the said *Dissenters*, have thereupon been declared to be no *Schismaticks*, as we are maliciously Represented to your Majesty to be by our Enemies.

We farther humbly Represent to your Majesty, That being Conscientiously Scrupulous of *Conformity* to some particular *Rites* and *Ceremonies* Established in the *Church of England*, and which, however acknowledg'd to be indifferent in themselves, are impos'd upon us as Terms of Communion; and not being able, without Sinning against our  
Con-



Consciences, to grant the Power of the Church, or of the Civil Authority, to make those Indifferent Things Necessary; as also being not able in all Things to agree to the *Episcopal Government* of the said Church, as it is Established by Law in your Majesty's Dominions: For these Reasons, WE HAVE BEEN OBLIG'D, in meer Obedience to the Sovereignty of Conscience, *being Com-manded to Obey God rather than Man, and being assur'd from God's Word, that whatsoever is not of Faith is Sin,* to DISSENT and SEPARATE our selves in Communion, tho' not in Charity, or in Doctrine from the said Establish'd Church; being in no Thing Enemies to the said Church, or to its present Settlement, much less Dangerous on any Account whatsoever; but in all Things quietly Submitting to the Laws of the Land, to your Majesty's Just Authority, and even to those Powers granted to the said *Church of England* as are not necessary to its Preservation; not only freely and constantly Paying all Tythes, Duties, and Dues, which, by Law, are demanded of us for the Support of the Clergy, Universities, Schools, and Edifices of the said Church; but in all Places, and on all Occa-

Occasions, Freely and Voluntarily Contributing to all such Collections, Charities, Free-Gifts, Subscriptions, and Payments whatsoever, as are found Wanting for the Support and Relief of Lectures, Publick-Sermons, Charity-Schools, Decay'd or Defac'd Churches, and all such Acts of Benevolence as are either by your Majesty's Briefs, or the Recommendation of the Clergy, and Members of the Church, offer'd to us without any Distinction; and without Objecting, That it is for the Support of that Church which we do not Conform to, or Communicate with, and which too often, and on many Occasions, professedly denies to us the same Benevolence.

And we cannot but, with all Humility, insist in our Claim of being receiv'd among the rest of your Majesty's Subjects Professing the same *Christian Religion* with us, and of being acknowledg'd as True and Orthodox *Christians* by Them, and by your Majesty, BECAUSE, to our great Comfort, we have been, as, of Right, we ought to be, frequently declar'd to be such, as well by your Majesty, and your glorious Predecessors, as also By and With the United Concurrence of the Lords Spiritual



ritual as well as Temporal, and Com-  
 mons of this Realm, Asssembled in Par-  
 liament, who have solemnly Pronoun-  
 ced and Enacted, That we, the *Dissenters*  
 afore said, are no *Schismatics*, and more  
 especially, because in the Late Happy  
 Conjunction of your Majesty's Kingdoms  
 of *England* and *Scotland*, and in the  
 Exemplification and Ratification thereof  
 in Parliament, commonly called, *The*  
*Act of the UNION*, the *Presbyterian*  
*Church of Scotland*, whose Discipline,  
 Worship, and Government is the same,  
*Mutatis Mutandis*, with what we pro-  
 fess, is acknowledg'd to be a Part of the  
 True *Protestant* Religion; and the same  
 is Settled, Confirmed, and Established as  
 the said True *Protestant* Religion by the  
 said Act of UNION, and by the Parlia-  
 ment of *England*, of which your Ma-  
 jesty is the Head, and of which the  
 Lords Spiritual are so considerable a  
 Branch, and to which your Majesty has  
 signify'd your Agreement, by your Roy-  
 al Assent to the said Act of UNION,  
 the Bishops of the *Church of England*  
 Representing the said *Church of Eng-  
 land* in the same Parliament, and to the  
 same Act Concurring and Assenting:  
 The Title of which Clause is thus, *For*  
*Securing* THE TRUE PROTESTANT  
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RELIGION AND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH GOVERNMENT. And we humbly hope and believe, That in a Kingdom where the Church Government which we acknowledge is in one Part allow'd, and likewise the Doctrine and Church Government of that People is granted to be THE TRUE PROTESTANT RELIGION, it shall never be suppos'd, that the same Doctrine and Government professed by us in another Part of your Majesty's Dominions, shall be deemed *Schismatical* and *Irreligious*.

Having, by these humble Representations, made Room for our Application to, and Claim of, an equal Share in your Majesty's Favour and Protection; and in Hopes that while we continue Loyal to, and *Quiet* and *Peaceable* under your Majesty's Government, we shall enjoy our Part of the Common Blessings of your Reign: We, with all Humility, beg Leave to represent to your Majesty a True State of our Case, as to our Dutiful and Quiet Behaviour to your Majesty: And as to that Malicious and Unjust Charge of which our Enemies make so great Advantage against us, (*viz.*) Of our being Dis-Affected to your Majesty's Person and Government, and *Dangerous to the Church*

of



*of England*, both which are the Pretences, at present, made use of to expose us to the Resentment of the Government, and, if possible, to dispossess us of your Majesty's Favour, and of the Liberty of our Religion which we enjoy, as well by Law as by the happy Continuance of your Majesty's Protection.

We Humbly Represent to Your Majesty, that the Breaches and Divisions which are so Encreased at this Time among Your Majesty's Subjects, of which Your Majesty has so frequently Complain'd from the Throne, and for Remedy whereof Your Majesty has so much and so often recommended *Moderation, Union, and Peace* among all Your Subjects, have been all along our Affliction, and a sad Presage to us of the general Distractions of Your Subjects, in which our Dangers are always justly to be apprehended. It is our Happiness, in some measure, in those Things, that the *present Divisions*, either in their Rise or Continuance, have not any Concern with us, or with any Thing relating to us, or in which we have any real Concern, **AS DISSENTERS.** Our Safety and Quiet is always best founded in the General Tranquillity of all Your Majesty's Subjects, seeing, as we

have too often found, by sad Experience, every Party in this Nation, as they have striven to prevail against the other, have, in their turn, given us up, and made their Advantages as occasion has offered them at our Expence; And that our Safety has consisted hitherto, next to the wonderful Providence of God, not in our Adhering to this or that Party, but in Your Majesty's Steady and Religious Observance of that Sacred Promise often repeated from the Throne, *of preserving Inviolably to us our Religious Liberties*, upon which Goodness of Your Majesty, our present Circumstances more especially guide us to depend, seeing it is evident, that not our Enemies only, but even those who have profess'd a great Concern for our Preservation, appear perfectly Unconcern'd in our Danger; and are ready to joyn, upon any Occasion, in our Oppression.

If, in those Divisions aforesaid, some may have Misrepresented us to Your Majesty, as having Abetted and Assisted those who have appear'd in Opposition to Your Majesty's *late*, or *present* Measures of Government; we most humbly beseech Your Majesty to give Ear to no such Persons, to the Prejudice of the *Dissenters* in General,



neral, for as much as that altho' some among us, or who call themselves *Dissenters*, may Foolishly, Precipitantly, and without our Approbation, have engaged either with Persons or Parties, in *Matters of State*, yet the *Main Body* of us, your Majesty's *Dissenting Subjects*, spread into every Corner of Your Dominions, are a quiet, peaceable, and inoffensive People, Studying to do our own Business, and perfectly ignorant of, and unconcern'd in the *Strife of Parties*, or the *Breaches of the Publick Peace*, except to Lament them, as Disasters to the Nation, and to Deprecate the Evil Consequences of them to Your Majesty's best and most faithful People of all Perswasions; endeavouring, in all Cases, to do our Duty to God and Your Majesty, as becomes Christians, and faithful Subjects; and desiring no more, than to Live Quiet and Peaceable Lives under Your Majesty, whom God and the Laws have made our Rightful Queen and Sovereign, in all Godliness and Honesty.

If any shall suggest to Your Majesty, That we are attach'd to the Interest of the *Protestant Succession*, and have imbib'd *New Principles of Liberty*; The first leading to be meddling in, and jealous of the Affairs of State, and of Your Majesty's

jeſty's Adminiſtration: And the other, making us Uneaſie under the Legal Adminiſtration of Your Maſteſty's Juſt Authority: We humbly crave leave to Clear our ſelves of both theſe hateful Accuſations, and to repreſent to Your Maſteſty, how greatly we are Injur'd by ſuch Calumnies, and in what manner, and to what ends and purpoſes, we are *Miſrepreſented* to Your Maſteſty on thoſe Accounts.

We are fully ſatiſfy'd by the Proviſion made in the Conſtitution of this Kingdom, at the Time of the late Bleſſed and Glorious Revolution, *viz. The Act of Settlement of the Crown, 1. of William and Mary. Cap. 1.* and in the ſeveral Laws ſubſequent thereunto, to which your Maſteſty, and Your Royal Predeceſſors have given the Royal Aſſent; and more particularly, that the Settlement of the Succeſſion to theſe Crowns, after Your Maſteſty, *whom we pray God to Preſerve*, is, by the Voice of the Nation, Eſtabliſh'd in the Illuſtrious Princes of the Houſe of *Hanover*; *viz. The Princeſs Sophia*, and the Heirs of Her Body; Remainder to their Heirs in Lineal Deſcent, *being Proteſtants*: We believe it to be the Expectation of all Your Maſteſty's Kingdoms, That this Succeſſion ſhould, in its due  
Time,



Time, take place; and we cannot doubt, but it has ever been agreeable to the Designs and Resolution of Your Majesty, that all Your Subjects should thus believe; and for any one to suggest, That by our being Zealously Attach'd to the said *Protestant Succession*, we should necessarily be made jealous of Your Majesty's Administration, is an inimitable Affront to, and an horrid Assault upon the Honour of Your Majesty, and the Justice of Your Majesty's Administration in an Undutiful and Disloyal manner suggesting, that Your Majesty would be Offended, that your People should adhere to that *Protestant Succession*, wick you had so constantly Declar'd for; and for the Security whereof so many necessary and wholesome Laws had receiv'd the Sanction of your Royal Assent; and we cannot be perswaded, but that when we shew our Abhorrence of every Attempt to weaken the Securities of the said *Protestant Hanover Succession*, we discharge our Duty, not to our Country and Posterity only, but to your Majesty, in the best manner possible, and in the manner, *above all other*, most pleasing and agreeable to your Majesty, as it is exactly suited to what those Laws require, which your Majesty, as aforesaid, has past, and particularly

*particularly* to that Act of UNION a-  
forefaid, which your Majesty has declared  
was esteemed by Your Self, *as the grea-  
test Glory and Felicity of your Reign*; and  
which we have great reason to believe  
your Majesty esteem'd so, principally be-  
cause it tended so much to the quieting  
the Minds of your Subjects in both King-  
doms, and reconciled all the dangerous  
Disputes which seem'd to be in view at  
that Time among your People, about  
the said *Protestant Succession*, which  
*Protestant Succession* is, by that very Act,  
render'd Immortal, Unalterable, and no  
more to be brought into Dispute among  
us.

And yet, may it please your Majesty,  
we humbly hope, that as our Adhering  
to the said *Protestant Succession* has been  
with all Deference and Duty to your  
Majesty, who is the only Rightful and  
Lawful POSSESSOR of the Crown,  
and whose Mild, Gentle, and Merciful  
Government is the great present Felicity  
of your Subjects; so we humbly con-  
ceive it is highly consistent with our  
said Duty to your Majesty, nay, and is,  
by the Laws, made a Part of our said  
Duty, that we should, with the same  
Fidelity that we serve your Majesty,  
preserve our Loyalty and Affection for  
those



those who your Majesty has declared the Apparent Heirs of the Crown, and to whom, by your Assent, We and our Posterity are to be Subject.

As to the unhappy Debates relating to the *Measures* of your Majesty's Administration, or the Persons whom your Majesty has, from time to time, entrusted with the Executive Authority of your Government, we humbly assure your Majesty, we desire to have no other Concern therein, than to lament that, whether with Cause given, or without Cause given, the Heats and Animosities of Parties among your People should be carry'd up to such a Height as to make either your Majesty *uneasy in the Possession of the Crown*, or your People uneasy to one another: And we look upon this with the more Regret, as we think our own Share therein very unhappy, seeing that whether any of our Body are drawn in, by evil Persons, to concern themselves therein farther than is their Duty; or that whether they have done so or not, yet we, who have not the least Concern therein, other than as aforesaid, to deprecate the evil Consequences thereof to your Majesty, and your Dominions, are unhappily Sufferers in the Reproach thereof,

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thereof, which is unjustly cast upon us.

Nor is this all ; for if, as we fear, your Majesty should be so far mov'd against us, by the Misbehaviour of some few of our Body, who therein we hereby **DISOWN**, and by no means justify or join with ; or by the Mis-Representation of our Enemies, as to Resent, to our Loss, the said Misbehaviour, it would not only be our unspeakable Disaster, and may tend to our Ruin and Destruction, as *Dissenters*, while, at the same Time, we humbly assure your Majesty, That as we are guilty of nothing that can Reasonably move your Majesty to such Displeasure, so we cannot suffer that Loss without the greatest Wrong and Injustice done to us by those who thus maliciously represent us to your Majesty, who endeavour thereby to deprive us of your Royal Favour and Protection ; and as, with all Humility, we protest our Innocencies, so we most humbly beseech your Majesty not to entertain any Apprehensions of us, the said *Dissenters*, or of our Behaving in anything Disloyally and Undutifully to your Majesty, upon any Occasion whatsoever, our utmost Desire in this World being

to



to see your Kingdoms flourish in *Peace* and *Liberty*; the Laws in their free Course; Justice equally administer'd; and all your Subjects United, Easy, and Prosperous, under your Majesty's Government and Protection.

We humbly acknowledge, That we owe to your Majesty's Goodness several Advantages and Priviledges, which the Laws have put Absolutely in your Power to Abridge us of; the long Enjoyment whereof, as it has been a Testimony to us, that we have not been always esteem'd Unworthy of your Majesty's Favour, so has it been a singular Blessing to us, and has given us great Cause to render Thanks to God for your Majesty's Reign, and for Enclining your Royal Heart to such *Moderation* and *Forbearance*; and has endear'd your Majesty to us as Subjects, and caused us to pray with the greatest Sincerity and Affection for your Long and Prosperous Reign over us; and it is the greater Affliction to us to be now Abridg'd of any of those Favours which we have so enjoy'd under your Majesty's Government, because we are not Conscious to our selves of having given the least Provocation to your Majesty to be

displeased with us, or having been wanting in our Duty to, or Affection for your Person and Government in any Respect whatsoever.

Among the said Advantages which we have Enjoy'd under your Majesty, as aforesaid, the Liberty of Teaching and Instructing our Children, and Educating them as well in the Knowledge of Letters, as in the Principles of the Christian Religion, and the Understanding of their Duty, both to God and your Majesty, *is not the least*; as, on the other hand, the Liberty of Educating those who are set apart for Religious Services, according to our own Way, that a Succession of Godly Ministers might be preserv'd to Us, and our Posterity after Us, *we esteem the greatest*. These Privileges however they are not made a Part of the Legal Toleration, which, as aforesaid, is Established to us, and that we have Enjoy'd the same as the effect of your Majesty's Goodness; yet we humbly Represent to your Majesty, That they are Things so Essential to, and such necessary Consequences of the Toleration it self, that we cannot but believe, that we have enjoy'd the same with your Majesty's *good pleasure*; and as the Consequences  
of



of these Promises aforesaid, which your Majesty was so often pleas'd to make, of *preserving the said Toleration Inviolable.*

And, *May it please Your Majesty,* we cannot, but with sad Hearts, look upon all Attempts to deprive us either of a Succession of Ministers to assist us in the Worship and Service of God, or of Needful Schools, for the Education and Instruction of our Children, by which alone the said Toleration can be made Effectual to our Posterity, as so many Constructive Invasions of the said Toleration, which we had so much Reason to hope should be INVIOLABLY Preserv'd, seeing that any Toleration of the Worshipping of God, according to our Consciences, must be Imperfect, which does not allow us to have *Ministers* brought up to Officiate in the said Worship. And we Humbly suggest to your Majesty, That when we had a Toleration allow'd for Religious Assemblies, and a Method therein Prescribed for the ascertaining the Qualification of our said Ministers, and of the Places where they should Exercise their Functions, It cannot be suppos'd but that the said Ministers were Tacitly, tho not Explicitly, allow'd to Qualify themselves by all needful Studies, Acquirements

quirements of Learning, Knowledge of Religion, and the like, for the Holy Office, for which they were to be Seperated and Inducted.

Likewise we humbly Represent to your Majesty, The Sad and Lamentable Case of our Families and Posterity, if the Education of our Children be taken from us, and if we are deprived of the Advantage of Schools for the Instruction of our said Children in the Knowledge of Letters, and in the Principles of the *Christian Religion*; in which Case, as your Majesty is not only the Nursing Mother of a Great and Populous Nation, but is not a Stranger to the Affection of a *Natural Mother to Children* of her own Body; we humbly appeal to your *Majesty* to judge in our Behalf, what an inexpressible Affliction it must be to so many Thousand Families of your Subjects, who NOT BEING ABLE from sincere Scruples of *Conscience*, and for no Wicked, Factionous, and Dividing Principles, as our Enemies falsely suggest, to suffer our *Children* to be brought up in the *Church of England*, should be therefore deprived of all Opportunities of Giving them such Learning, and such Education, and Instruction as is  
necessary



necessary to fit them for their Respective Employments, and as may fit them, as aforesaid, for the Service of God, your Majesty, and their Country.

We know it is wickedly suggested, That we have the *Toleration* only as a present Exemption from the Punishment of the Laws then in Force, and that it was not the Intent and Meaning of the said *Toleration*, that we should propagate the Separation to our Posterity; and we find some who have endeavour'd, tho' very weakly, by their Writings, to perswade us, That it is our Duty, altho' we cannot our selves conform, yet to breed up our Posterity in Principles of *Conformity* to the *Church of England*: But, *Madam*, your *Majesty* must have very mean Thoughts of the Sincerity of our Principles; and our Enemies might, with much more Justice than now they can, tax us with Hypocrisy, and with being not really Conscientious *Dissenters*, if at the same Time that Professing our selves not able to Conform to the Worship and Government of the *Church of England*, we, on meer Scruples of Conscience separated from her Communion; and yet, at the same Time, could Educate our Children in that Way

Way which we could not join in our selves.

If, *Madam*, we did not believe that it is our indispensable Duty to Serve and Worship God in that Way, which is, in our Opinion, most agreeable to his Revealed Will, and if we did not believe that the Worship, Ceremonies, &c. which we Dissent from, are not most agreeable to the said Will of God, we could not have any justifiable Reason for our Dissent: But, *Madam*, while we are perswaded, That the Way in which we Serve and Worship God, without making any Reflections, is, as aforesaid, the most agreeable to the Word of God, which is his Revealed Will; and that therefore we think our selves bound in Duty to adhere thereto; your *Majesty* would most justly condemn us, as being without all Sincerity, and meer Hypocritical *Dissenters*; or, on the other Hand, as being without Natural Affections to our Children, especially without Affection to their Souls, if we could so far neglect them as to Educate them in such a Worship which we did believe was not the most agreeable to God's Will; so that, *Madam*, we humbly Represent, That either we must cease to be

*Dissenters*



*Dissenters*, or cease to be moved with an Affectionate Concern for the Souls of our Children ; or we must think our selves bound, both by the Laws of God and Nature, to instruct them in the *Christian Religion* in the same manner, and in the same Principles as we our selves profess it.

And we humbly lay the Consideration of this Case before your *Majesty*, (*viz.*) Whether Abridging us of the Liberty of Educating our Children, and of Instructing them in the same Principles of the *Christian Religion*, and in the same manner of Worship and Practice which we believe to be best and most agreeable to the Will of God, is not our indispensable Duty, which we cannot go from, and may not omit, on Pain of God's Vengeance, and most Righteous Judgment, both here and for ever; which, if it be True, as we believe, we cannot upon any Terms, comply with, without Sin ; or our Enemies impose upon us, without being guilty of manifest Persecution ; which, according to the Declaration of several late Parliaments, is Voted to be contrary to the Principles of the *Christian Religion*, and

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to

to the Practice of the *Church of England* in particular.

We humbly crave your *Majesty's* Pardon, if, with the greatest Deference to your *Majesty's* known Clemency, and that **Compassionate Merciful Temper** with which, it is known, you have always treated your Subjects, we lay before your *Majesty* something of the Nature and Consequences of such Persecuting Laws as either have been in Force in this Nation, or as may be made or reviv'd by any Influence which our Enemies may have in Time Coming, to the Prejudice of the *Dissenters*; and humbly to expostulate, not with your *Majesty*, but with all those who misrepresent us to your *Majesty*, in Order to bring us under your Displeasure, and to destroy the Interest we have had in your *Majesty's* Protection.

*May it please your Majesty:* We are far from Representing our selves as a Body, either Formidable to our Enemies, or Dangerous to the State, on any Account. We are many in Number indeed, but without the least appearance of a Body. We, on all Occasions, covet to be, as we really are, under the Protection of no Humane Power but that  
of



of your *Majesty*, and the *Laws* : Our Enemies cannot accuse us of being in any Concert one with another, no not so much as what ought to be for maintaining the needful Correspondence among our selves for the Conduct of our Religious Interest. We are not Seperated from, but are promiscuously Scatter'd among all your *Majesty's* Subjects, and in all Parts of your Dominions; we have no publick Leaders, publick Heads, publick Stock, or publick Strength, nor do we ever seek any; but are entirely Naked and Defenceless; Disconcerted, Divided from one another, and too much Uneasie one with one another. The Scandal of so much as Thinking our selves Powerful, much less of Being So in reality, will not lie against us, even our Enemies themselves being Judges: So that all the Suggestions which have been made, *of our being Dangerous to the State*, are so evidently Malicious, and without Weight, that we are under no Apprehensions that your *Majesty* will, or can be Imposed upon in that Case about us.

On the Contrary, Our Enemies find it but too easie, on all Occasions, to Oppress and Invade us; and had not the Honour and Veracity of your *Majesty* interpos'd

terpos'd, your *Majesty* is witness for us, how often they would, and easily could have finished our Ruin, and dissolved the Act of Toleration, which is the Foundation of the Liberty we enjoy ; and we, on the other hand, are witnesses to Posterity, how Constantly and Steadily your *Majesty* has Maintain'd us in the Enjoyment of our Religious Liberties ; and Preserv'd us from the Danger of an *Unchristian Persecution* ; which Protection, we, on all Occasions, have express'd our Sense of, and Thankfulness to your *Majesty* for, and are not Conscious that we have Willingly, or as *Dissenters*, done any thing to forfeit.

Nor have our Enemies only found it easie to Oppress us, and to Crush us with Limitations and Restrictions, such as the Laws of Toleration have left but too much room for : But even those People who we are Reproach'd with Serving, and for adhering to whom, in Civil Affairs, we have been Misrepresented to your *Majesty*, have, on all Occasions, assisted our said Enemies to take from us all power of making our selves Considerable in the said Civil Affairs, by entirely disabling us to appear in Publick Matters, removing us from all the Advantages of  
Magistracy



Magistracy in Towns, or Offices in the Court, whereby we might be capable by our Numbers, to give any weight on one Side or on the other ; in doing which however, they have, tho' perhaps against their will, done us this Favour, That being so entirely under their Foot, with respect to Power, the Charge of *being Dangerous*, either to *Church* or *State*, can never more be brought against us.

All Pretences therefore of our *Suggesting the ill Consequences of these Things, as the Effect of our Strength or Number*, being thus Remov'd, we, in the Humblest manner possible, Represent to your *Majesty*, the evil Consequences of any Laws which shall, or may be Made to Suppress us, to Persecute us, or to Abridge us of the just Liberty which we Enjoy.

And *First*, We Humbly Represent, How great a Breach such Things must necessarily make of that Peace and Union among all your *Majesty's* Subjects, which was, in a great measure, compass'd by the Toleration ; which your *Majesty* has so earnestly and so often Recommended to all your People from the Throne ; and which, however, by Heats and Animosities of another Nature, and by the Warmth

Warmth and Intemperate Conduct of Men of all Sides and Parties, it is Interrupted; yet, blessed be God, there is room to hope, and expect, it might be yet obtain'd under your *Majesty's* mild and merciful Administration.

It cannot but be a Grief to all your *Majesty's* good Subjects, who wish to see the whole Nation United in Affection to your *Majesty*, and in Zeal for the Publick Safety; to find that to the present unhappy breaches, which too much agitate the Minds of your Subjects, and which break in upon the Peace of Societies, Neighbourhood, and even of Families, about State Affairs, which few rightly Understand, should be added, the Reviv'd Rancour and Animosity, which so long, and with so many evil effects, Distracted this Nation, for Fifty Years before the *Revolution*, upon Differences in Religion; all which the Charity and Forbearance of the *Church of England*, and the Satisfaction which the *Dissenters* reap'd in an Uninterrupted *Tolleration*, had happily laid a sleep, and which began, on Both Sides, to be forgotten among us.

Your *Majesty* has had many Examples of the Follies committed on Both Sides in those Days, to the Uneasiness of the Govern-



Government, and the great Disquiet of the Nation, from the Heat and the Oppression of *persecuting Penal Laws* Immoderately Executed on one hand, and from the Immoderate Zeal of those, who by those unjust Pressures, and the various sorts of Violence which they suffer'd, have rather been Driven farther off from the Church, than Reduc'd to its Obedience on the other hand.

We Humbly leave it to your *Majesty's* Consideration, and believe that your *Majesty's* Experience cannot but join with us in it, That the Persecution of *Dissenters* in the former Reigns, did not only fail in the End propos'd (*viz.*) Of *Reducing them to a Conformity to the Church*; but, on the contrary, rather Encreas'd the Numbers of the *Dissenters* in your Dominions; Many Families of *Moderate People*, tho' before of the *Church of England*, being fill'd with such Aversions to the Violences offered to Conscience, which they thought Unchristian; and with Compassion for the Sufferings of others, as thereby to believe the Sufferers the *best Christians*, and came over to them accordingly. On the other hand, It seems to be out of Question, That, saving the benefit of our Liberty, which  
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we are thankful to God and your *Majesty* for, the Numbers, and Interest of the *Dissenters* has been far from Encreasing, or Gaining Ground by the said *Toleration*.

We acknowledge, *Madam*, That taking away the Schools and Accademies of the *Dissenters*, is not an immediate Depriving us of the *Toleration*; tho' it Abridges us of those Appendices of Liberty, which we enjoy'd as Consequences of the *Toleration*, as aforesaid; and that we are not thereby abridg'd of Educating our Youth, and preserving a Succession of Ministers, by sending them into Foreign Parts, and bringing them up in the Schools and Universities of other Countries. But we humbly Represent to your *Majesty*, That these Things cannot but fill us with just Apprehensions, that farther Hardships may be prepared, and design'd for us; and that those who can be so Unjust to us, as to Insinuate, *That we are Dangerous to your Majesty's Interest, unworthy of your Royal Favour, or Protection, and not to be Oblig'd with such Advantages, as by your Majesty's Goodness we have Enjoy'd*, will not fail, as far as possible, upon all Occasions, to Incense your *Majesty* against us, and to prepossess  
your



your *Majesty* so far in our Prejudice, as to make other, and farther Hardships and Restraints upon us to seem Necessary; and at last, to bring upon us a Repeal even of the *Tolleration* it self, and a Return of all the former Violences of Persecution, under which we, and our immediate Progenitors have so deeply Suffer'd already.

We farther Represent to your *Majesty*, That as it may be True, that we may, as aforesaid, send our Children, for Education and Instruction to Foreign Parts, whereby the Succession of our Ministers may be preserv'd: Yet that this confirms our Apprehensions, as aforesaid, That our Enemies will not rest here, but are resolved if possible to push on their Designs against us, to our entire Ruin, and to the divesting us of the Privilege of the *Tolleration* its self, as aforesaid; since otherwise, the Easiness of our bringing up young Ministers Abroad, whereby our Succession of Ministers is secur'd, and that thereby the End of the present Design will be defeated, should be a forcible Reason against their proceeding against us in this Manner, as being a Thing perfectly ineffectual, and not capable of answering what is propos'd by it, (*viz.*)

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*of Putting an End to what they call the Schism.*

And yet, on the other Hand, we cannot but Represent to your Majesty, That our Educating our Youth Abroad is many Ways injurious not to our Families only, but to the Publick Stock of the Kingdom, Causing great Numbers of Youth to settle in Foreign Parts, and never return at all, to the Lessening the Numbers of your People; and Causing great Sums of Money to be Yearly expended in Foreign Countries, to the manifest Loss of our Own.

But we humbly lay our selves at your Majesty's Feet, in Behalf of the Posterity of our Poorer Brethren, whose Families being large, and Subsistence small, are not able to support the Expence of Foreign Education; and who yet being restrain'd by the same Principle of Conscience by which they Dissent, and not able, with Satisfaction, to breed up their Children under *Church of England* Tutors and School-Masters, will be thereby oblig'd to content themselves with Keeping them at Home, and Bringing them up with that little Family-Instruction which

they



they are able to give them, to the great Scandal of their Country, the Discouragement of Litterature, and, in Consequence thereof, the Abounding of Ignorance, which is the Mother of Error and Confusion.

*For these* and many other Reasons, we humbly Supplicate your Majesty to take our Case into your Royal Consideration: We beseech, and, with all Humility, entreat your Majesty to consider us and our Innocent Posterity, who are Represented as Enemies to your Majesty before they are yet Born, or before they know their Right Hands from their Left, in the Offences which our Enemies suggest as the Reason of their present Proceeding against us.

We humbly plead with your Majesty, That if, as is suggested, some of us may have unwarily failed in their Duty, and in their mistaken Zeal for the Nation's Liberties, may have fallen in too much with, and gone too far in the Party-Disputes, which now embarrass the Publick Affairs; which Steps of theirs, we, as aforesaid, utterly dislike, and Daily blame them for; that yet, on the contrary, the main Body of *Dissenters* are your Ma-

jeſty's Faithful Subjects, Steady in your Intereſt, and Depending upon the Juſtice and Faithfulneſs of your Maſteſty, for the Safety and Preſervation of their Liberties, *Proteſtant* Religion, *Proteſtant* Succeſſion, and the Publick Good of their Country againſt all the *Popiſh* Intereſts, Princes, and Pretenders in the World.

We humbly plead, Madam, That, to the utmoſt of our Power, we have been Aſſiſtant to bear the Burthen of Long and Expensive Wars, in Defence of the Honour and Dignity of the Crown, and againſt *Popiſh* and *French* Tyranny; We have ſpent our Blood and Eſtates in the Service of your Maſteſty, and our Country; have Fought and Paid as Far and as Faithfully, in Proportion, as our Brethren of the *Church*; and *Pardon us, Madam, to ſay,* That we were in Hopes our ſaid Brethren would not have envied or prevented us in Enjoying with them the Bleſſings and Comforts of *Peace*; and we cannot but think our ſelves unkindly treated by them who envy us our Share in the Happineſs of your Maſteſty's Reign, *which, we pray God may be Long and Proſperous,* on Pretence of  
our



our being Disloyal to your Majesty, and Dangerous to your Government, to preserve which, there are so many among us left Fatherless, Widows, Childless, and maim'd both in Families and Persons, by the Long and Faithful Services which we have perform'd in your Majesty's Armies and Navies.

We most humbly supplicate your Majesty, That as we are not Conscious of any Crime, and that our worst Enemies cannot charge us, as *Dissenters*, with Acting any Thing contrary or inconsistent with your Majesty's Interest, or our Duty to your Majesty, so our Enemies may not prevail with your Majesty to withdraw your Protection or Favour from us.

We beseech your Majesty, That as our Years of Peace are to begin at this Period; the Ruin of our Religious Liberties may not be dated from the same *Epocha* with the Enjoyment of our Civil Liberties; and that our Children may not date the Persecution they shall suffer from the very same Year of your Reign from which the Nation dates their *Quiet* and *Tranquillity*; that we may not mourn when all the rest of your Subjects rejoyce; and that

that your Majesty, who, we are assured, wishes for nothing more than the Prosperity of all your People, may not have the Disappointment to see a constant Series of Afflictions entailed upon more than a Million of innocent People, your Subjects; and their Days made miserable by Persecution and Prosecution, for the meer Profession of Religion, and Preserving their Consciences free from Impositions of Human Invention.

*Lastly*, We humbly entreat your Majesty to pardon the Freedom of this Supplication, and of All concern'd therein, there being no Meaning or Design therein, but to obtain from your Majesty, That no Act may obtain your Royal Assent, which may lessen the Religious Privileges of your Faithful Subjects, the DISSENTERS; Abridge them of the Liberties and of the happy Quiet of their Consciences, in the matters of Religion which they now enjoy; or may restrain them from Instructing their Children in the Fear and Knowledge of God, and of their Duty to your Majesty; to be depriv'd whereof, would reduce us to the greatest Perplexities and Difficulties imaginable.

God



God preserve your Majesty's valuable Life; and make your Reign Long and Prosperous; grant you Peace and Victory over all the Enemies of your Person and Government, and inspire your Majesty with Divine Grace, That you may exalt Religion, Honour, the King of Heaven, Establish Peace, Charity, and a Reconciliation of Parties among all your People; to the Glory of your Majesty's Reign, and the Lasting Comfort of the whole Nation, is the United Prayer of all your Majesty's *Faithful and Peaceable Protestant Subjects* throughout your Dominions, and, in a particular manner, of

The *Dissenters*.

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*F I N I S.*

A circular seal or stamp, possibly a library or archival mark, located in the center of the page. The seal is dark and circular, with some internal details that are difficult to discern due to the image quality. It appears to be a library or archival mark, possibly from the University of Toronto, given the context of the document.



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